

# *Ban Tours* *Incoming*

*Your gateway to Croatia*



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# Ban Tours Incoming

Your gateway to Croatia



Discover Croatia as the new and exciting destination on the world's map and let us lead you every step of the way!



**Official name:** Hrvatska / Croatia

**Official language:** Croatian

**Official script:** Latin

**Monetary unit:** kuna (1 kuna = 100 lipa)

**Population:** 4.437.460

**Capital city:** Zagreb (779,145 inhabitants)

**Political organization:** Multi-party parliamentary republic

**Total area:** 87.661 km<sup>2</sup>

**Total land area:** 56.594 km<sup>2</sup>

**Surface area of territorial sea and interior sea waters:** 31.067 km<sup>2</sup>

**Coastline:** 5.835,3 km

**Length of the coastline -land only:** 1.777,3 km

**Length of the coastline – islands:** 4.058,0 km

**Number of islands, solitary rocks and reefs:** 1.244; the largest islands are Cres and Krk; there are 47 inhabited islands.

**Climate:** The climate of Croatia varies from Mediterranean along the Adriatic coast to continental, inland.

**Rivers:** Sava, Drava, Dunav, Mirna, Raša, Zrmanja, Krka i Cetina, ...

**Mountains:** Dinara, Kamešnica, Biokovo, Velebit, Plješivica, Velika Kapela, Risnjak, Svilaja, Snježnik ...

**Highest peak:** Dinara (Mountain Dinara) – 1,831 m

**Lakes:** Plitvice Lakes (a chain of 16 lakes with the river Korana as the effluent), Red and Blue Lakes near Imotski (unique karst phenomena), a cryptodepression Vrana on the island of Cres, freshwater lake Vrana, ...

**Man-made lakes:** Lokve and Bajer in Gorski Kotar, Trakošćan in Hrvatsko Zagorje and Peruća along the river Cetina in Dalmatia

**Largest lake:** Vransko Lake, near Biograd – 30 km<sup>2</sup>

**Larger cities:** Zagreb, Split, Rijeka, Osijek, Zadar, Šibenik, Dubrovnik, Karlovac, Sisak, Varaždin, ...

# Basic information

**Ban Tours Incoming** is part of Ban Tours Group, a reliable partner and flexible tour operator and travel agency situated in center of **Zagreb**, Croatian's capital, founded in **1994**. Our team consists of **42 highly educated and multilingual professionals** whose competences and skills will exceed your expectations, since we combine excellent knowledge with a profound understanding of our client's needs and preferences.

**BAN TOURS**  
Tour Operator, Incoming & Outgoing Travel agency



**HEAD OFFICE:** Kaptol 11, 10 000 Zagreb, Croatia  
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**IATA-licensed air ticket seller - IATA code:** 75 - 32135 2.

**HISTORY:** founded in 1994.  
**OWNERSHIP:** 100% privately owned  
**GENERAL MANAGER:** Mr. Željko Marković

**FLEET** of 37 brand new Dufour sailing yachts  
**EMPLOYEES:** 42 employees, highly educated and experienced in travel industry  
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**BAN TOURS is the official travel agency of:**



**BAN TOURS is a member of:**



**BAN TOURS GROUP:**

*Ban Tours*  *Incoming*  
 *Croatia Culinary Tours*

**BAN TOURS**  
**MICE Croatia**



# Our services

**Ban Tours** is a reliable partner and flexible tour operator and travel agency situated in center of **Zagreb**, Croatian's capital, founded in **1994**.

Our team consists of **30 highly educated and multilingual professionals** whose competences and skills will exceed your expectations, since we combine excellent knowledge with a profound understanding of our client's needs and preferences.

We have exceeded very tough quality guidelines for our business and are constantly expanding and seeking for new ways to ensure **unique and creative travel excitements for each and every traveler**, where all our products are carefully designed and competitively priced to fit any given budget.

Our offer of memorable travel experiences with **exclusive amenities, personal involvement and creative routes** carefully designed for each preference, asserts us as true connoisseurs of exquisite taste and beauty.

## **Individual & group tailor made programs**

We work dedicatedly to insure each program is original and tailored to your specifications adjusting it according to your travel preferences, regardless if you are travelling with a group or if you feel more comfortable exploring new destinations at your own pace.

## **Accommodation**

Ban Tours' trusted and respected name enables excellent relationships within the travel industry resulting with the most competitive rates and a wide selection of creative accommodation solutions; from prestigious luxurious brands, boutique hotels and small family run hotels to budget hotels and carefully selected private accommodation.

## **Transfers & car rentals**

Ban Tours delivers an excellent and wide choice of reliable transfer and car rental services in Croatia and its neighboring countries. We offer diverse types and categories of vehicles to all major sites throughout the region including private car transfers, coach buses, catamaran and boat transfers, VIP arrangements and much more.

## **Guidance & assistance**

Our guides and tour leaders are knowledgeable, responsible and highly dedicated to provide educational and engaging information about Croatia's heritage bringing you face-to-face with people, places and events that reflect the essence of each visited site.

## **Excursions & shore excursions**

Carefully designed excursions to unique and diverse destinations in Croatia provide meaningful and rewarding experiences for our clients throughout the years. Each excursion is adjusted to your specific interest; excursions with cultural and historical focuses, as well as shore excursions and adventurous programs are just some examples of our one-of-a-kind services based on your own personal specifications.

## **Corporate services – Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, Events, Team Buildings**

Our knowledge team knows what every organization needs from its travel service provider: attention, savings and results. We assign trained and experienced agents that understand your business ethos better than anyone. Our attention to details coupled with the highest professional standards always results in finding the corporate travel solutions that guarantee the best possible results you demand.

## **Yachting**

Ban Tours owns a brand new fleet of 20 luxurious Dufour sailing yachts. We are based in Marina Frapa, Rogoznica, officially announced as the best marina in Croatia, located in the heart of Dalmatia from where most of the Adriatic can be sailed to within a week.

## **Sport Travel Management**

Ban tours is a Croatian market leader in all kind of travel related to sport. We have worked closely with a variety of sport clients, Croatian and international, including federations, associations, committees, leagues, clubs, their sponsors and partners as well as media representatives and supporters.



## Croatia Sun

Dubrovnik - Zagreb, 10 days & 9 nights

### Day 01 DUBROVNIK arrival

Arrival at Dubrovnik airport. Meet & greet followed by a private transfer to your hotel. Free evening and overnight at the hotel in Dubrovnik.



### Day 02 DUBROVNIK

Guided half-day tour of the Old City included in UNESCO World Heritage Site list (since 1979). This ancient city surrounded by ramparts and fortresses abounds in architectural and cultural masterpieces carefully preserved for centuries. A pleasant walk will take you to the Rector's Palace, the Dominican Monastery housing a rich collection of medieval paintings. Following the central city street – Stradun – you will have a chance to visit the Franciscan Monastery and other intriguing sites.



### Day 03 DUBROVNIK – STON – SPLIT

Morning at leisure in Dubrovnik. Departure towards Split with en-route stop in the town of Ston built in the 14th century in the form of a two-fold fortification system with Large and Small Ston, aiming to protect the salt plants, one of its major economic resources. A 12 - kilometer long wall – the world's second longest wall after the Wall of China – connects two fortified cities: the first was built in order to protect the salt plants and the second as the salt export harbor.



The oldest in Europe, the Ston salt plants are still in use, and the salt producing technology has not changed for centuries. Your visit to Ston and its salt plants will be a journey through history. In Croatian Gastronomy – the Ston Bay is the cradle of farming of mussels and oysters. Arrival Split. Accommodation at the hotel and overnight.

### Day 04 SPLIT – TROGIR – SPLIT

Your guide will meet you in hotel. Split is the largest and most important town in Dalmatia. Walking tour of historical center and remains of Diocletian's Palace (UNESCO World Heritage List since 1979), built between the late 3rd and the early 4th centuries A.D.

The cathedral was built in the Middle Ages, reusing materials from the ancient mausoleum. Romanesque churches, medieval fortifications, 15th -century Gothic palaces and other palaces in Renaissance and Baroque style make up the rest of the protected area.



Afternoon is reserved for visit to Trogir, a town museum. Lovers of cultural and historical monuments, art, architecture and nice alleys are given the opportunity to learn about manifold and complex heritage - from Romanesque yard to the modern interiors. The unique historical core, Radovan's portal, has been arousing excitement among visitors and travelers for centuries. Overnight at the hotel in Split.



#### Day 05 SPLIT – PRIMOSTEN – ZADAR

Breakfast buffet followed by check out and departure to Zadar with en-route stop in Primosten. The enchanting peninsula of Primosten is one of the most photogenic spots on the Adriatic coast. There are no particular sights or museums in Primosten but the old medieval town is a museum itself. You only need to follow the main path which runs around the whole peninsula in order to choose the perfect spot for a coffee break.



Arrival to Zadar. Walking tour of this ancient Croatian city which inherited architectural sights from long and turbulent history as a church of St Donat, originally built in 9th century in Byzantine style. The main city street – The Wide Street – or Kalelarga, together with modern architectural solutions of Sea Organ and Greeting to the Sun are unique in the world.



#### Day 06 ZADAR – PLITVICE LAKES – OPATIJA

Breakfast buffet at the hotel followed by check out and departure towards Plitvice Lakes National Park – one of the greatest natural wonders and phenomena in the world. Connected to each other by a series of foaming cascades and thundering waterfalls, the lakes are fed by many rivers and streams. Plitvice Lakes were declared a National Park in 1949, and since 1979 they have been on UNESCO's list of World Natural Heritage.



Continue to Opatija. Accommodation at the hotel and overnight in Opatija.



### Day 07 OPATIJA – ISTRIA TOUR – OPATIJA

Breakfast at the hotel, followed by a full day Istria Peninsula Tour. The first stop is in Hum – officially the smallest town in the world with 22 inhabitants.



Following the Mirna river valley we will reach the village of Livade and Motovun, located on the very peak of a hill with a magnificent view over the valley and surrounding hills. Groznanj and Motovun regions are famous for truffles, as well as the best white wines of Croatia.



The road will lead us further to Porec for a walking tour and a visit to the ancient Euphrasius basilica - the sine qua none of religious architecture with outstanding Byzantine mosaics from the 5th century and further to Rovinj the Jewel of Istria.



Continue to Pula where you will be able to visit one of the most preserved Roman amphitheataters.



Return to Opatija via the beautiful Kvarner Bay for overnight.

### Day 08 OPATIJA – ZAGREB

Morning at leisure in Opatija. The city, owes its name to the Benedictine Abbey which was built in the 15th century, on the sea shore. A pearl of Austro-Hungarian Riviera was the favorite tourist destination of the European high society, emperors, famous artists and celebrities such as Wilhelm II, Franz Joseph, Empress Sissy, Gustav Mahler, Isidora Duncan, Anton Pavlovich Chekhov and many others. Departure to Zagreb. Overnight at hotel in Zagreb.



### Day 09 ZAGREB

Morning is reserved for Lower Town guided walking tour. Zrinjevac park together with a lot of buildings representing the typical architecture of Central Europe from the edge of 19th and 20th century. Buildings of The Croatian Academy of Science and Arts and neighboring Art Pavilion are two finest examples. Continue by the Botanical Gardens and Marulic Square towards the Marsal Tito Square with another three important landmarks of Zagreb: The Mimara Museum, Croatian National Theatre and Zagreb University.



Afternoon starts with a short funicular ride to Upper Town – totally different, enchanting Zagreb and the story returns back to 15th and 16th century. The Lotrščak Tower signals the high noon to Zagreb citizens with the cannon shot every day. St. Catherine's Square with baroque church, St. Mark's Square with Houses of Parliament and Government and St. Mark's Church with its picturesque roof, The Stone Gate – another remaining of strong city walls are impressive sights for your own postcard of Zagreb.



Overnight at hotel in Zagreb.

### Day 10 ZAGREB departure

Breakfast at the hotel followed by check out and transfer to Zagreb airport for outbound flight.

# UNESCO Croatia

Zagreb - Dubrovnik, 9 days & 8 nights

## Day 01 ZAGREB – OPATIJA

Meet and greet at the Zagreb airport followed by a private transfer to Opatija in Kvarner Bay on the Northern Adriatic.

Opatija owes its name to the Benedictine abbey built in 15th century close to the sea shore (Opatija = the Croatian word for 'abbey'). Opatija was the summer resort of the Austro Hungarian empire right up to the outbreak of WW1 and it was popularized by Wilhelm II, Franz Joseph, Empress Sissy, Gustav Mahler, Isadora Duncan and Chekov. The town also possesses magnificent luxury villas, dazzling neoclassic and art nouveau hotels located in luxuriously trimmed gardens and parks. Welcome dinner and overnight.



## Day 02 OPATIJA – ISTRIA TOUR – POREC – OPATIJA

Breakfast at the hotel followed by a full day excursion to the Istrian Peninsula. As soon as we exit the tunnel through Ucka Mountain, one will recognize why Istrian Peninsula is usually called The Small Tuscany. Numerous hills covered with vineyards and olive trees, topped with picturesque small towns dominate the entire panorama. The first stop will be done in medieval hilltop town of Motovun rising over the Mirna River valley.



Following the scenic route to the seaside and passing the town of Groznanj, we will reach Porec and visit one of the most famous religious monuments.



The Euphrasian Basilica (UNESCO World Heritage List since 1997), its atrium, baptistery and episcopal palace are outstanding examples of religious architecture, while the basilica itself combines classical and Byzantine elements in an exceptional manner.



It was built on the remains of an earlier tri-naval basilica, in the first half of the 6th century, during the period of Bishop Euphrasius, whose name it bears. The most striking feature of the basilica is its mosaics, dating from the 6th century, and which are considered amongst the finest examples of Byzantine art in the world.



The final stop before return to Opatija will be a walking tour of Rovinj.

### Day 03 OPATIJA – PLITVICE LAKES NATIONAL PARK – ZADAR

Breakfast and departure towards Zadar with en-route stop for visiting Plitvice Lakes National Park. Situated in a thick forest, Plitvice Lakes is considered one of the most beautiful natural phenomena in the world.



Continue to Zadar for overnight.



### Day 04 ZADAR – SIBENIK – SPLIT

Morning walking tour of this ancient Croatian city which inherited diverse architectural sights from its long and turbulent history as the church of St Donat, originally built in 9th century in Byzantine style. Another landmark is the cathedral of St Anastasia constructed in the 12th and 13th centuries in Romanesque style.



Early afternoon departure to Split with en-route stop in the city of Sibenik to visit the famous cathedral of St James (UNESCO World Heritage List since 2000).



The Cathedral bears witness to the considerable exchanges in the field of monumental arts between Northern Italy, Dalmatia and Tuscany in the 15th and 16th centuries. The three architects who succeeded each other in the construction of the Cathedral - Francesco di Giacomo, Georgius Mathei Dalmaticus and Niccolò di Giovanni Fiorentino - developed a structure built entirely from stone and using unique construction techniques for the vaulting and the dome of the Cathedral.



The form and the decorative elements of the Cathedral, such as a remarkable frieze decorated with 71 sculptured faces of men, women, and children also illustrate the successful fusion of Gothic and Renaissance art. Return to Split. Overnight.



#### Day 05 SPLIT – TROGIR – SPLIT

The day will begin with the walking tour of Trogir – the town museum (UNESCO World Heritage List since 1997). Trogir is a remarkable example of urban continuity. The orthogonal street plan of this island settlement dates back to the Hellenistic period and it was embellished by successive rulers with many fine public and domestic buildings and fortifications.



Beautiful Romanesque churches are complemented by the outstanding Renaissance and Baroque buildings from the Venetian period.



Departure to Split for walking tour of historical center and Diocletian's Palace remains (UNESCO World Heritage List since 1979), built between the late 3rd and the early 4th centuries A.D. The cathedral was built in the Middle Ages, reusing materials from the ancient mausoleum. 12th and 13th century Romanesque churches, medieval fortifications, 15th century Gothic palaces and other palaces in Renaissance and Baroque style make up the rest of the protected area. Overnight in Split.



#### Day 06 SPLIT – STARI GRAD

Departure from the Split port for a ferry boat transfer to the town of Stari Grad on the island of Hvar. A short walking tour of Stari Grad Plain (UNESCO World Heritage List since 2009), a cultural landscape that has remained practically intact since it was first colonized by Ionian Greeks from Pharos in the 4th century BC.



The original agricultural activity of this fertile plain, mainly focusing on grapes and olives, has been maintained since Greek times to the present. The landscape features ancient stone walls and trims & small stone shelters. transfer to the town of Hvar for a brief walking visit before returning to Split for overnight. Aloe lace, also under UNESCO protection is made in Croatia only by Benedictine nuns in the town of Hvar. Thin, white threads are obtained from the core of fresh aloe leaves and woven into a net or other pattern on a cardboard background. The resulting pieces are a symbol of Hvar.



The city of Hvar is a unique fusion of luxurious Mediterranean nature, rich cultural and historical heritage, and mundane, tourist present.

#### 07 SPLIT – STON – DUBROVNIK

Morning departure to Dubrovnik with en-route stop in Ston for walking tour. The Dubrovnik Republic built the town of Ston in the 14th century in the form of a two-fold fortification system (Large and Small Ston), aiming to protect the salt plants, one of its major economic resources. A 12 kilometer long wall (the world's second longest wall after the Wall of China) connects two fortified cities: the first was built in order to protect the salt plants and the second as the salt export harbor.



The oldest in Europe, the Ston salt plants are still in use, and the salt producing technology has not changed for centuries.



Overnight in Dubrovnik.

#### Day 08 DUBROVNIK

A half-day tour of the Old City - included in UNESCO World Heritage Site list (since 1979). This ancient city surrounded by ramparts and fortresses abounds in architectural and cultural masterpieces carefully preserved for centuries.



A pleasant walk will take you to the Rector's Palace, the Dominican Monastery housing a rich collection of medieval paintings, the Franciscan Monastery among other intriguing sites.



After the city tour, the guests are free to continue exploring the Old City and its Walls on their own. Farewell dinner.  
Overnight in Dubrovnik.

#### Day 09 DUBROVNIK departure

Breakfast at hotel and departure transfer to the airport for outbound flight.

# Croatian Wonders

Zagreb - Zagreb, 8 days & 7 nights

## Day 01 ZAGREB arrival

Check in and overnight at the hotel.

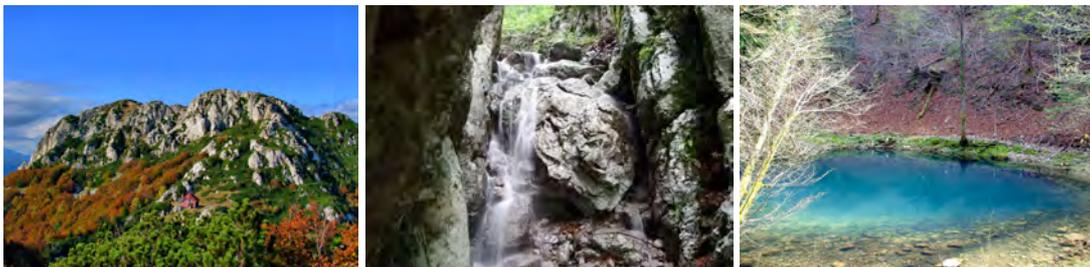


## Day 02 ZAGREB - RISNJAK NATIONAL PARK – OPATIJA

After breakfast we depart to the region of Gorski Kotar, for our stop at the Risnjak National Park.



Visitors are recommended to take a walk along the educational path “Leska” where they can easily get to know some of its natural resources and carst features. The path leads from the administration building in Bijela Vodica following the road towards west, through a forest of tall fir trees that grow along the way.



After exploring the national park we depart to the charming Opatija in Kvarner bay. Overnight at the hotel.

## Day 03 OPATIJA - BRIJUNI ISLAND NATIONAL PARK - OPATIJA

Breakfast at the hotel and departure to Fazana. Upon arrival embarkation to the transfer boat for Brijuni Island National Park. The sightseeing tour includes a ride by a tourist train, a visit to the remains of the Roman villa dating from the 1st century B.C. in the bay of Verige. The tour also includes visits to the archaeological museum, located in the Citadel building from the XVI century and the Church of St. Germain with its permanent exhibition of copies of frescoes and Glagolitic writings from Istria.



Return to Opatija. Overnight in Opatija.

#### 04 OPATIJA - PAKLENICA NATIONAL PARK – ZADAR

Early breakfast and departure to Starigrad, a town at the entrance to the Paklenica National Park. The area of Paklenica National Park has an exceptional diversity of geomorphological forms. Within the National Park, there are over 150 km of hiking trails. The most attractive and most valuable parts of South Velebit are surely the impressive canyons of Velika Paklenica and Mala Paklenica.



Mala Paklenica Canyon is of lesser dimension, and the torrent running through it is much less powerful. It is 12 km long and 400-500 wide. In its narrowest part, it is only 10 m wide, while the surrounding cliffs rise up to a height of 650 m. The pass between the Velika Paklenica and Mala Paklenica Canyons is formed by a very inaccessible karstic area comprising rocks and cliffs.



Continuation to Zadar. Rest of the day is free to explore the city. Overnight in Zadar.

#### Day 05 ZADAR - KRKA NATIONAL PARK – ZADAR

Breakfast and departure to Krka National Park and the place called Skradinski buk. This locality includes the most attractive part of the National Park. The sightseeing cruise to Skradinski Buk and back lasts approximately 2 hours and includes a walk on footpaths and bridges along the cascade formations, sightseeing of the mills with expert presentations and demonstrations of the ethnological collection, stamping mills, rollers and weavers' workshop.



Visit the island of Visovac with its Franciscan monastery, church and museum followed by a short sightseeing tour around the island.



Return to Zadar. Overnight in Zadar.

#### **Day 06 ZADAR - KORNATI ISLANDS NATIONAL PARK - ZADAR**

Breakfast and transfer to Zadar pier and embarkation on the boat for a full day excursion to Kornati National Park. In the central part of Croatian Adriatic Sea, there is an amazing group of islands called Kornati archipelago. The exceptional beauty of the archipelago moved authorities in 1980 to proclaim a large part of the area a national park. There are 147 islands, islets and reefs within the area of Kornati National Park (36 km in length and 6 kms wide), making it the most indented group of islands in the Mediterranean. Overnight in Zadar.



#### **Day 07 ZADAR - PLITVICE LAKES NATIONAL PARK - ZAGREB**

Early breakfast and departure for Plitvice Lakes National Park.

Situated in a thick forest, Plitvice Lakes are considered one of the most beautiful natural phenomena in the world. The 16 lakes connected by 92 waterfalls, cascading through picturesque surroundings have been included on UNESCO's list of World Natural Heritage. Late afternoon arrival in Zagreb. Overnight at the hotel.



#### **Day 08 ZAGREB departure**

Breakfast and check out from hotel.

# Croatia & Medjugorje Pilgrimage

Zagreb - Dubrovnik, 10 days & 9 nights

## DAY 01 ZAGREB arrival

Upon arrival to Zagreb, transfer from the airport to the hotel with a panoramic city sightseeing tour. Depending on the arrival-afternoon walking city tour of Zagreb, the capital of Croatia.



Walking tour through the narrow streets of Upper Town, passing the Cathedral, Dolac open air market, Stone Gate, St. Mark's church with its picturesque roof, Parliament and Government buildings, Lotrscak Tower and many more.



## DAY 02 ZAGREB - MARIJA BISTRICA - ZAGREB

After breakfast, departure to Marija Bistrica, the largest and most visited Marian sanctuary in Croatia.

Catholic faith has deep roots in the Croatian history and Mother Mary (called Queen of all Croats) is specially honored. The main pilgrimage site here is the parish church of St. Peter with a miraculous gothic sculpture of the Mother Mary of Bistrica dating from the 16th century. This church became a Croatian sanctuary in 1715 by the Parliament's decision. On the hilltop of Bistrica's Calvary, the Way of the Cross is marked by stone and bronze sculptures and consists of 15 stations showing Christ's passion.



Drive back to Zagreb. Accommodation in the hotel.

## DAY 03 ZAGREB - RIJEKA - OPATIJA

After breakfast, departure to Rijeka. Sightseeing of Rijeka. Visit of the famous church and sanctuary of Our Lady of Trsat, situated above the town. According to the legend the sanctuary's history began with „Mary's house“ being transferred from Nazareth to Trsat in 1291 and then to Loretto, Italy three years after.



Its 13th century Franciscan cloister painted with 32 scenes from the life of the Virgin Mary with the Votive Chapel contains numerous picturesque popular illustrations of the miracles of Our Lady of Trsat.



Accommodation in the hotel.

**DAY 04 OPATIJA - ZADAR - SIBENIK**

After breakfast, departure for Sibenik with a stop in Zadar. Sightseeing of Zadar includes a delightful walk through the old core of the city. Visit of the church of Saint Donat - the symbol of the city and the most famous monumental edifice in Croatia from the early Middle Ages (9th c.).



Discover the Cathedral of St. Anastasia, considered to be the most impressive basilica in Dalmatia. Its oldest parts are an early Christian basilica, but its present Romanesque appearance was shaped in the 12th century.



Continue to Sibenik, the oldest Croatian and Slavic city on the Adriatic.



The most famous sight is the Cathedral of St. James, from 15th century, built by Juraj Dalmatinac, whose statue made by one of the biggest Croatian sculptor Ivan Mestrovic, stands on the square in front of his masterpiece. Short sightseeing of Sibenik.



Accommodation in the hotel.

#### DAY 05 SIBENIK - NATIONAL PARK KRKA - TROGIR

After breakfast, continue to the National Park Krka, one of the most amazing in Dalmatia, surrounded by untouched nature - enjoy the sights of crystal clear waters, waterfalls and small lakes. Embark boat on the river Krka for a cruise to the island of Visovac. Throughout the turbulent history of this region, the island of Visovac has always been an oasis of peace, where the Franciscan monastery and church from the 15th century served as fortresses of spirituality, morality and national identity.



Sail back to Skradinski buk – where you will have time for wondering around. Continue drive to Trogir. Accommodation in the hotel.

#### DAY 06 TROGIR - SPLIT - MEDJUGORJE

After breakfast, short sightseeing of Trogir, known as a town museum, included in UNESCO's World Heritage List.



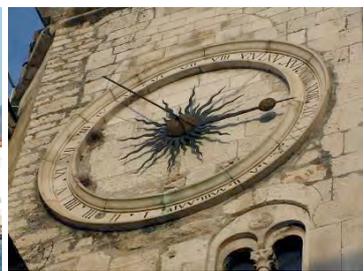
Walk through its narrow streets passing stone houses, churches, palaces, monasteries and walls. Visit the Cathedral of St. Lawrence the main attraction in Trogir with the famous Romanesque portal created by the local artist Radovan. The sides of the portal feature lion figures, with the figures of Adam and Eve above them.



Continue to Split also included in UNESCO's World Heritage List. Split is the largest and most important town in Dalmatia.



The town was developed around the palace erected by the Roman Emperor Diocletian in the 4th century. Visit the well preserved cellars of Diocletians Palace, walk up the stairs to Peristil, where you will discover the beautiful Jupiter's Temple. Admire the Cathedral of St Dujce, the patron of Split, originally the mausoleum of the palace, for which is considered the oldest Cathedral in the World.



After free time, continue drive to Medjugorje. Accommodation in the hotel.

#### DAY 07 MEDJUGORJE - STON - DUBROVNIK

Breakfast at the hotel. Since the first apparition of Our Lady at the beginning of 1981., millions of people of all faiths, from all over the world, have visited Medjugorje and have left spiritually strengthened and renewed.



Take a walk to the Apparition Hill by „the way of the rosary“ marked by wooden crosses and bronze reliefs. Mass can be arranged.



Departure to Dubrovnik, with a stop in Ston, a historical town with an important strategic role during the Ragusian Republic: its salt works, dating back to Roman times, were worth a fortune, while the defensive walls provided security in turbulent medieval times. This walls are one of the longest defensive walls in the world. Continue drive to Dubrovnik. Accommodation in the hotel.



**DAY 08 DUBROVNIK**

After breakfast, sightseeing tour of Dubrovnik with a panoramic drive.

Among many historical and cultural sites in the city, on this tour you will visit the Franciscan monastery with one of the oldest pharmacies in the world and the Treasury of the Cathedral.



The Franciscan monastery is built in the Romanesque-Gothic style and along with its cluster is considered to be a masterpiece of architectural arts. The Old Pharmacy, located inside the Franciscan monastery, was opened in 1317. It is the third oldest pharmacy in Europe, but the only one still working. The inventories, ceramics, bowls, laboratory equipment and old medical books of the old Pharmacy are kept in the Franciscan Monastery Museum, among other highly valued and priceless objects of Dubrovnik's historic and cultural past.



Second highlight is the impressive baroque Cathedral with its Treasury, built to replace the Romanesque Cathedral destroyed in the Great Earthquake in 1667. The reconstructed Cathedral is a three-hall building containing a rich treasury and a line of paintings by top art masters, such as Padovani, J. Palma the Younger, G.G. Savoldo, Parmigianino and many others. The Cathedral's Treasury is situated in the beautiful baroque chapel and it consists 138 reliquaries, most of which are traditionally carried in procession round the city on the feast of St. Blaise (February).



Afternoon at leisure. Accommodation in the hotel.

**DAY 09 DUBROVNIK - CAVTAT AND KONAVLE - DUBROVNIK**

Breakfast at hotel. Excursion to the beautiful historical town of Cavtat, one of the most beautiful places on the eastern Adriatic coast. Cavtat was originally a Greek settlement called Epidaurus. Around 228 BC it became a Roman colony. Enjoy the walk through the town filled with beautiful palaces and luxuriant vegetation.



Visit the mausoleum of the Račić family (the work of Ivan Meštrović, one of Croatia's greatest sculptors), the home and gallery of the great Croatian painter Vlaho Bukovac, the Franciscan monastery and Church of St. Blaise (Vlaho) from the 15th century, the collection of the scientist and attorney Baltazar Bogišić, and the Baroque parish Church of St. Nicholas.



After sightseeing, departure for lunch to the picturesque Konavle valley, a region covered with vineyards and olive groves, which enchants visitors with its natural beauty and wealth of folklore tradition where the oldest villagers still wear the traditional folk costumes.



Accommodation in the hotel.

**DAY 10 DUBROVNIK departure**

After breakfast, transfer to the Dubrovnik airport for the return flight home.

# Zagreb Chronicle

## City highlights sightseeing

Meeting with your guide at the hotel. You will first have the opportunity of meeting Zagreb by bus. One of the highlights of the drive is the Mirogoj Cemetery, considered to be one of the most beautiful cemetery parks in Europe and, because of its design, numbers among the more noteworthy landmarks in the City of Zagreb. The cemetery inters members of all religious groups and is the last resting places of many famous Croats. Return to the city center. The walking tour starts on Kaptol where the **Cathedral of St. Stephen and Archbishop's towers and halls** are located.



In just a few steps the tour will lead you to **Dolac** the most picturesque open air market in the city. After experiencing the local way of grocery shopping continue towards the **Tkalčiceva Street**, a pedestrian zone where locals enjoy daily in numerous restaurants, bars and galleries. The tour continues up to the Radićeva Street to the **Stone Gate** – a remaining of the medieval strong city walls.



Passing through the gate a different, enchanting Zagreb returning back to 15th and 16th century will appear. The Lotrščak Tower stays proudly over the Lower Town panorama and signalizes the high noon to Zagreb citizens with the cannon shot every day. Step by step you will discover all major sights here: St. Catherine's Square with baroque church, St. Mark's Square with House of Parliament, House of Government and St. Mark's Church with its picturesque roof.



Experience one of the shortest funicular rides in the world. Once you step outside the funicular the walking tour continues following the streets of Lower Town. Passing the Flower Square you will reach the Marshal Tito Square, home to three important landmarks of Zagreb: The Mimara Museum, Croatian National Theatre and Zagreb University.



Continue following the **Lenuci's "green horse-shoe"** with impressive squares and parks, passing the **Croatian Academy of Science and Arts** and neighboring **Art Pavilion**. Following the Zrinjevac Park one of the most beautiful in Zagreb, enjoy a walk through the typical architecture of Central Europe from the edge of 19th and 20th century. The pleasant walk will lead you to the Ban Jelačić Square the main square in Zagreb, a few steps away from your bus. Return to the hotel.



## *Green Fairy tale Plitvice & Rastoke*

Morning transfer to the village Rastoke, the historic center of the Croatian municipality of Slunj. This old part of Slunj is known for its well-preserved mills and the picturesque little waterfalls along the Slunjčica river, which flows into the river Korana at this place. This location is often being referred to as "the Small Lakes of Plitvice". Rastoke is a place of autochthonous ecologic and ethnographic significance due to its symbiosis of natural and civilizational features.



Continue to Plitvice lakes. Embraced by high wooded mountains, one beneath another lie sixteen beautiful lakes of crystal blue-green water. Connected to each other by a series of foaming cascades and thundering waterfalls, the lakes are fed by many rivers and streams. Plitvice Lakes were declared a National Park in 1949, and since 1979 they have been on UNESCO's list of World Natural Heritage.



Return to Zagreb in the evening.

# Shore excursions

## DUBROVNIK JEWISH HERITAGE TOUR & CAVTAT



Upon arrival to Dubrovnik pier, private transfer to the Old City for a walking Jewish Heritage Tour of Dubrovnik. Jews came to Dubrovnik in the 15th century and made an important cultural contribution to the development of the Republic. This walk provides an opportunity to understand Jewish life in Dubrovnik and how it has changed through history. The walk starts in front of Onofrio's Fountain and continues along Stradun, the main street, to Žudioska Street where the Jewish community was once situated. Here, in this street, you will visit the famous Synagogue established in the 15th century, re-built in 1652 and still in use today, which carry attribute of one of the oldest synagogues in Europe.



Synagogue

Along with the Jewish history you will have an opportunity to visit all major sights such as the Treasury of the Dubrovnik cathedral, Rector's Palace, St. Blasé church, Sponza Palace, Franciscan & Dominican Monastery and much more.



Rector's Palace

Lunch will be held at one of the most renowned restaurants not only in Dubrovnik but in the region.

**LUNCH AT RESTAURANT NAUTIKA;** [www.nautikarestaurant.com](http://www.nautikarestaurant.com)



After sightseeing time at leisure for your own activities – buy yourself souvenir which will make your memories vivid for long time after you come back home. We suggest to go in “Dubrovnik house”, located inside St. Dominic tower, dating from 14th century, where you can find home made brandy and liqueurs made of Mediterranean herbs and fruits, virgin olive oil, wine from this area (Plavac, Dingač, Postup) and traditional sweets as “arancin” (sugared and sun-dried orange).



Continuation to Cavtat, a city near Dubrovnik, founded by the Greeks in the 6th century BC under the name of Epidaurus. Today, Cavtat is a popular tourist destination with a seafront filled with shops and restaurants. Sightseeing with a local guide. Visit the Mausoleum of the Racic family, made by the famous Croatian sculptor Ivan Mestrovic.



Cavtat

After sightseeing time at leisure for your own activities. Return to Dubrovnik pier. Departure.

### SPLIT & TROGIR TOUR

Upon arrival to Split pier, meet your guide who will take you to the Old City for a walking tour of Split. After a brief introduction you will enter to the spectacular Diocletian Palace, visit the well preserved cellars and the famous Cathedral and Jupiter Temple.



In just a few steps visit the synagogue in Split, one of Europe's oldest synagogue still active. It was built in the 16th century, in the former Jewish ghetto. The present appearance of the interior was built around the 1728th year. The current appearance of the interior was formed around 1728. The most sacred part of the place of worship, the Aron Hakodesh, facing Jerusalem and made in the Classicist style of black and white marble, is built into the western wall of the Diocletian's Palace.

The tour continues to the old Jewish cemetery established in 1573 on the eastern slopes of the Marjan hill, overlooking the city. It is within the walking distance from the city center, some 10-15 minutes slow walk uphill. The cemetery offers a unique display of traces of the past. There are over 700 graves, with readable tombstones from the 18th-20th centuries. The last burial at this cemetery took place in 1945, when it was closed and protected as a monument.

Today's Jewish community uses the Jewish section of the public cemetery in Lovrinac, where there is also a Holocaust memorial.



The Roman province of Dalmatia, through its access to the sea, was the neighbor of every maritime country. There are numerous historic and archaeological sources to prove that the Adriatic Sea played an important role in Roman trade. While it may be difficult to establish a precise date for the arrival of earliest Jewish traders to the Adriatic, we have enough evidence to set up the period

between 3rd and 5th centuries for their presence on the Eastern Adriatic Coast. The most numerous pieces of evidence for a substantial Jewish community were found in Salona which was the capital city of the Roman province of Dalmatia and the most important harbor and market place in that part of the Empire.



After sightseeing time at leisure for your own activities. Lunch will be held at the famous Bajamonti restaurant.

#### RESTAURANT BAJAMONTI, SPLIT



Continue to Trogir, a city with 2300 years of tradition, a beautiful medieval town that occupies a tiny island under UNESCO protection.



After sightseeing time at leisure for your own activities. Return to Split pier. Departure.

#### ZADAR & SIBENIK TOUR

Upon arrival to Zadar pier, meet your guide who will take you to enjoy a walk through the northern Dalmatian city of Zadar. In the historic Old Town see the St. Anastasia Cathedral, one of the most impressive in Dalmatia. The town has a rich literary and musical heritage. Take time to listen the beautiful music of the unique sea-organ.



Zadar

After sightseeing time at leisure for your own activities. Lunch will be held at the restaurant Foša.

**RESTAURANT FOŠA, ZADAR;** [www.fosa.hr](http://www.fosa.hr)



Continue to Sibenik, a historic town located in central Dalmatia where the river Krka flows into the Adriatic Sea.



Sibenik

After sightseeing time at leisure for your own activities. Return to Zadar pier. Departure.

### ISTRIA TOUR

Upon arrival to Rovinj pier, meet your guide and enjoy a sightseeing of one of the most romantic towns on the Adriatic.



We continue to Porec, where besides the guided visit through the city various museums and galleries in old palaces can be visited. Typical Istrian lunch will be served in a delightful restaurant.



**RESTAURANT AGROLAGUNA; <http://www.agrolaguna.hr>**  
 Visit of the wine yards and olive trees plantation, cellars & lunch.



After lunch continue to Pula. After sightseeing time at leisure for your own activities.



Return to Rovinj pier. Departure.



 *Croatia Culinary Tours*

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# Zagreb Bites & Beats

## Gourmet walking tour

Meet with the local guide at **Ban Jelacic square**, the main square in Zagreb where the **Gradska Kavana Restaurant & Cafe** is located. Drink tea or coffee with a piece of famous local pastry **Zagreb kremšnite**.



St. Stephen's Cathedral



Ban Jelacic Square



Gradska Kavana



Zagreb kremšnita

Continue to Kaptol where the **Cathedral of St. Stephen and Archbishop's towers and halls** are located. In just a few steps the tour will lead you to **Dolac** the most picturesque open air market in the city. After experiencing the local way of grocery shopping continue towards the **Tkalciceva Street**, a pedestrian zone where locals enjoy daily in numerous restaurants, bars and galleries. The tour continues up to the Radićeva Street to the **Stone Gate** – a remaining of the medieval strong city walls.



Stone Gate



Tkalciceva street



Dolac

Passing through the gate a different, enchanting Zagreb returning back to 15th and 16th century will appear. In the **Gallery Caffe Bar Lav** you will have the opportunity to taste **homemade grappa** made of honey, herbs or peach along with **arancini (candied orange peel typical for Dubrovnik area)**, **paprenjaci (biscuit containing a unique mix of honey and black pepper)** & **caramelized almonds**.



Gallery caffe bar Lav



Arancini



Paprenjak



Caramelized almonds



Grappa

Step by step you will discover all major sights of Upper Town: **St. Catherine's Square** with its baroque church, **St. Mark's Square** with the House of Parliament, House of Government and St. Mark's Church with its picturesque roof.



St.Catherine's square



St.Mark's church



Upper town

While exploring the sights, visit the enchanting **restaurant Pod Gričkim Topom** where lunch will be held. Try various types of Croatian cheese, game salami, Slavonki kulen ( red paprika flavored sausage ), Dalmatian paštica ( beef & vegetable stew ) with homemade gnocchi, venison stew with bread dumplings and accompanied with 0,25 wine Zdjelarević & 0,25 Drniš Merlot.



After lunch, experience the shortest funicular ride in the world. Once you step outside the funicular just a few steps away the wine bar Basement is located. Here you'll have an opportunity to experience a wine session with most renowned Croatian wines.



Following the streets of Lower Town, passing the Flower Square you will reach the **Marshal Tito Square**, home to three important landmarks of Zagreb: **The Mimara Museum, Croatian National Theatre and Zagreb University**.



Mimara Museum



Croatian National Theatre



Zagreb University

Continue following the **Lenuci's "green horse-shoe"** with impressive squares and parks, passing the **Croatian Academy of Science and Arts** and neighboring **Art Pavilion**. Return to the hotel Palace. Following the Zrinjevac Park one of the most beautiful in Zagreb, enjoy a walk through the typical architecture of Central Europe from the edge of 19th and 20th century. The pleasant walk will lead you to back to the Ban Jelačić Square.



Zrinjevac Park



Art Pavilion



State Archives



Croatian Academy of Science and Art

# Heaven Slopes

## Plesivica & Samobor

Pick up at the hotel, meeting with your guide, private transfer to Plesivica area. The wine road currently features approximately 30 wineries. Plesivica offers a broad spectrum of varieties—Grasevina, Chardonnay, Rhine Riesling, Neuburger, Pinot gris, Pinot blanc, Gewürztraminer, Sauvignon, Zeleni Silvanac, Zuti Plavec. Private transfer will be organized to the Korak winery & vineyards, situated in Plesivica county.



The family own winery is an exclusive boutique winery where all wines boast of outstanding quality. Wine tasting will be held in a beautifully decorated tasting room and restaurant with a wonderful view of the amazing vineyard.



The excursion leads us to the delightful town of Samobor situated at the foot of the mountain Samobor in the Zagreb county. In the green above the city there are ruins of the once solid and strong-town Samobor. Samobor is a town with ancient ruins from the Stone and Iron Age, and even today keeps the charter of King Bela IV which included the town among the medieval, and distinguished "free royal cities."



Sightseeing of the center of Samobor.



During the sightseeing you will be introduced with the traditional preparation of the indigenous bermet and Samobor mustard.

Bermet is a specially refined alcoholic drink made of selected sorts of grapes, worm-wood and tropical fruit.

Mustard is a piquant sauce, and is made of dried mustard seeds and processed grapes. Also, you will have a chance to taste the most famous pastry in Croatia, Samoborske Kremšnite.



Return to the hotel in Zagreb.

## *Path of the Past* *Zagorje & Krapina & Varazdin*

Meet your guide at the hotel. Transfer to the Zagorje region.



Arrival to Krapina, the favourite site for castles and country houses of Croatian and Hungarian rulers. In 1899, on a hill called Husnjak near modern Krapina, over eight hundred fossil remains belonging to Neanderthals were found.



At the site is now a state-of-the-art Neanderthal museum which also includes an extensive segment on evolution, making it one of the most interesting evolutionary museums in Europe surrounded by a park with many statues of Neanderthals on actual locations.



Continue to Trakoscan, built in the late 13th century as part of the defense fortification network of the Zagorje principality. It has been meticulously maintained and is currently one of the best preserved historic buildings in the country.



After visiting the castle transfer to the Golden Wine Trail and the restaurant Zlatne Gorice. Following the Golden Wine Trail you will have an opportunity to taste some exquisite wines through a trail that represents 12 stations of Slavic mythology.



Through this guided event everyone will be given twelve baskets, twelve bites and twelve species of continental wines with an emphasis on wines Golden Gorica from organic farming.



After lunch transfer to Varazdin. Sightseeing of Varazdin. What distinguishes Varaždin from other Croatian cities is the extraordinarily rich monumental and artistic heritage that is contained within its beautifully preserved Historic Core. Within the relatively small area of the Old Town are preserved palaces, important public buildings, Baroque, Rococo, Classicist and Secessionist houses and villas and one of the oldest City Halls in Europe.



Transfer to the village Hrascine to the Bolfan Vinski Vrh winery & vineyards. During thousands of years, in more or less intermittent intervals, this was a vine growing land, where exuberant wines were tasted and poured. Upon arrival a welcome drink will be organized where your hosts will introduce to you the history, tradition and contemporary vision of the winery.



Wine session will be held along with a degustation of homemade products at the lovely restaurant Libertin at the estate.



Return to Zagreb in the evening.

## *Indulge Istria*

*Private excursions*

### **Itinerary 01: Rovinj – Bale – Pula – Rovinj**

Meet your guide & driver at the hotel in Rovinj. Transfer to the town of Bale situated at a height of 140 meters above sea level. The town developed around the medieval castle of the Sardo and Bembo families in the 15th century and is mentioned in the earliest written documents as the Roman settlement Castrum Vallis.



Bale

From the moment you set your eyes at Villa Meneghetti, nestled among the vineyards and olive groves, you'll think you're in a place where you could stay forever.



In this Istrian oasis, surrounded by beautiful scenery, enriched with intoxicating scents of nature and the nearby sea, even the demanding ones will remain enchanted.



While enjoying the delicacies from Meneghetti chefs, sipping a glass of Meneghetti wine and watching the sunset over the vineyards of Merlot in you awakens a feeling of total peace and serenity.



Transfer to Pula. Guided sightseeing of Pula. The history of Pula starts with the myth of the Argonauts and the search for the Golden Fleece. It was the home of the Histrians, the Romans and the Venetians. Once the central Austrian port, today it is the largest cultural and economic center of Istria. Various layers of history took part in the making of this unique town in which Roman temples defy baroque palaces, early Christian churches stand face to face to Austrian villas, and the remnants of mediaeval walls are cut through by antique town gates.



Pula

And then, you will come across the Amphitheatre, revealing itself to you in all its beauty. This is one of the best preserved Roman amphitheatres in the world, the most significant monument in Pula! Arena, the place where gladiators faced lions, used to be able to entertain 25 000 spectators. This grandiose edifice allows you to get an insight of its glorious history, the one you can see, feel, and experience. It also serves as a host to greatest cultural programs.

Return to Rovinj.

### Itinerary 02: Rovinj – Poreč – Nova Vas – Rovinj

Meet your guide & driver at the hotel in Rovinj. Transfer to the town of Poreč. Guided sightseeing of Poreč and the Euphrasian Basilica (UNESCO World Heritage List since 1997). Its atrium, baptistery and episcopal palace are outstanding examples of religious architecture, while the basilica itself combines classical and Byzantine elements in an exceptional manner.



The most striking feature of the basilica are its mosaics, dating from the 6th century, and which are considered amongst the finest examples of Byzantine art in the world.



Continue to the village Nova Vas where a wine session will be organized at the Roxanich estate. Roxanich is a fairly new producer (first released vintage was 2005) in the western Istria wine-growing hills of the northern Adriatic coast of Croatia. The clever and catchy name is an adaptation of owner/winemaker Mladen Rožanić's surname.



Rožanić founded the winery with 23 hectares of vineyards in 2004. In 2009, the winery produced about 70,000 bottles of wine, including Malvazija, Chardonnay, Teran, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and many others. Roxanich is unique in several ways, but one is that they employ extended maceration with their wines, which promotes, at first, stronger tannins and color. It also creates really unique flavors and aromas.



After the wine tasting visit the Baredina Caves. The sightseeing lasts approx. 40 minutes; visitors descend along a 300m long pathway up to 60m below the ground and an underground lake and visit 5 beautifully decorated chambers.

In one of the chambers you will pass along a 4m wide passage that leads 66m vertically down reaching the deepest point of the cave at 132m. The cave is well-lit and ordered, the pathway and the stairs have firm rails. The temperature is very pleasant 14°C.



Return to Rovinj.

### Itinerary 03: Rovinj – Vižinada – Motovun – Pazin – Rovinj

Meet your guide & driver at the hotel in Rovinj. Transfer to the village Vižinada. One of the most beautiful views in Istria can be enjoyed from Vižinada and the surrounding hillside of Sv. Tomo (St Thomas hill). The wonderful views are spread across abundantly fruitful vineyards where wine sessions will be held at Rossi estate and Geržinić estate.



Rossi Family Farm is located at the Vižinada Bajkini. Rossi family wine is produced independently over 12ha planted and well groomed vineyards. From 1885. The Rossi family keeps the tradition of growing indigenous Istrian Malvasia wines, food and Teran - row crowned silver at Vinistra Vinovita and national festivals. Famous for its variety of homemade brandy, Rossi show that they have something to say in the world of fine wines.



Continue to the Geržinić estate. Family Geržinić currently handles its own 6 hectares of vineyards, of which the largest part of the Istrian Malvasia, and five other varieties: Chardonnay, Yellow Muscat, Teran, Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah. Along the beautiful vineyards they carefully cultivate their olive trees preserving the proud family tradition of the fruits of many years of a high quality product, extra virgin olive oil.



Transfer to Motovun, a town of rich historical heritage in which each stone has its own story. This medieval Istrian town is situated on a hill with a view of the river Mirna valley. The park-forest Motovun is the most famous place for truffles. Also, noble varieties are grown in Motovun vineyards.



Continue to the village Livade nearby where a truffle session will be organized at the Zigante estate. Zigante tartufi is the leading name in truffle production and sales, and one of the most famous names in catering in Croatia. The biggest truffle found weighted 1.31 kg and entered the Guinness Book of World Records. It was found on 2 November 1999 near Buje by Mr Giancarlo Zigante.



Transfer to Rovinj. Stop en route in the town of Pazin; the current town was mostly built beneath the medieval fortress. The present-day Castle Montecuccoli was rebuilt in the 15th and 16th century and disassembled in the 18th and 19th. It has been a museum since the end of World War II. The Pazin ponor (Pazinska jama/Foiba) located under the castle was partially explored by Édouard-Alfred Martel in 1896 and is the best example of karst hydrography and morphology in Istria.



#### Itinerary 04: Rovinj – Nova Vas – Grožnjan – Buje & Momjan – Rovinj

Meet your guide & driver at the hotel in Rovinj. Transfer to the village Nova Vas where a wine session will be organized at the Roxanich estate. Roxanich is a fairly new producer (first released vintage was 2005) in the western Istria wine-growing hills of the northern Adriatic coast of Croatia. The clever and catchy name is an adaptation of owner/winemaker Mladen Rožanić's surname.



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Transfer to Grožnjan. Guided sightseeing of Grožnjan. Grožnjan, a small Istrian town of great cultural significance not only in Croatia but also internationally, lives its summer months very intensely. Every year at the beginning of May, the little streets and squares of Grožnjan metamorphose and turn into a truly artistic beehive: it opens its summer music academies for young people, its artistic, dance and drama workshops and its peace activism workshops under the leadership of well-known experts and teachers and famous names from music, art and drama.



Groznan

Continue to the village Buje. The Buje Region stretches from the river Mirna to the river Dragonja, which also marks the border line with the Republic of Slovenia. This is an area with wavelike hills covered with vineyards, olive groves and fields sprinkled with oak, cerris and pine woods and Mediterranean meadows with wild thyme and fir trees and a karst belt full of interesting geological phenomena.



Today, the entire region of Buje is the most famous winegrowing part of Istria with numerous wine cellars and farmhouses (agritourism). where wine sessions will be organized at the Kozlović and Kabola estate.

The Kozlović philosophy is embodied in the family's history, a family that knew how to hold together, working towards a common goal; nurturing the value of their toils, effort, resolution and competence.



Their work and development is based, in this regard, on an innate inclination to live beyond the borders and conquer new horizons in the world of wine making. This history, adopted by the descendants as their own, continues and finds its confirmation from day to day, bonding the past, present and future.



Continue to Kabola, located in Kremenje between Buje and Momjan and includes a small winemaking museum and a wonderful restaurant.



The Kabola winery owners says that if you want to experience something really special in Istria, you have to taste the wines of Momjan area. We'll make sure you try the wine made from the unique Momjan Muscat.



Transfer to Rovinj.

## Continental Flavors Tour Zagreb - Slavonia

### Day 01 ZAGREB arrival

Arrival and check in at the hotel. Three course welcome dinner will be served in the hotel restaurant. Overnight.

### Day 02 ZAGREB Gourmet City Tour

Breakfast at the hotel. Morning is reserved for **Lower Town guided walking tour**. The first tasting – **štrukli** – will be served in a **local café** just behind the corner. Strukli is a pastry filled with mixture of cheese with eggs, sour cream and salt, covered in clotted cream and baked in oven - **traditional Croatian dish** served in most household in wide Zagreb area. Continue by the **Botanical Gardens and Marulic Square** towards the **Marsal Tito Square** with another three important landmarks of Zagreb: **The Mimara Museum, Croatian National Theatre and Zagreb University**.

The second tasting – **cheese and wine** – in the nice **wine shop and cellar beneath the Gradec Hill**. Experienced staff will give you an intro into Croatian wine regions and present three most typical wines. Afternoon starts with a short **funicular ride to Upper Town** – totally different, enchanting Zagreb and the story returns back to 15th and 16th century. Step by step you will discover all major sights here: **St. Catherine's Square** with baroque church, **St. Mark's Square** with **House of Parliament, House of Government and St. Mark's Church** with its picturesque roof, The **Stone Gate** – another remaining of strong city walls and the place where you can lit the candle and say the prayer to the Virgin Mary – one of two saints protectors of Zagreb. The third tasting – **meal and wine** – will take place in picturesque restaurant hidden between historical buildings and museums. The route will lead you down slope to **Radiceva and Tkalciceva streets** before reaching the top of **Kaptol Hill** with the **Cathedral of St. Stephen** and Archbishop's towers and halls.

Overnight at hotel in Zagreb.



Zrinjevac Park



Art Pavilion



Mimara museum



St. Mark's church

### Day 03 ZAGREB – ZAGORJE & VARAŽDIN TOUR – ZAGREB

Breakfast at the hotel. **Excursion to Varaždin and Zagorje area.** Visit **Trakošćan**, a beautiful castle built in the 13th century, one of the most famous in Croatia. After a guided tour through the medieval castle walls, wine matching food lunch will be held in a local restaurant close to Varaždin. Experience rustic examples of culinary arts through simple dishes such as **polenta** cooked slowly in the hearth for hours, **fresh cottage cheese and slow roasted turkey served with 'mlinci'**, special baked noodle. Continue to Varaždin the pearl of Central European Baroque architecture and the ancient Croatian capital. Discover the beautiful sites of the old town fortification and the central part of the town with numerous museums and galleries with valuable art collections. After Varaždin sightseeing we will continue to **village Hrašćina** region's leading boutique wine estate. Thanks to the rich vine-growing tradition, today high quality grapevine varieties are grown and high quality wines are produced in this area. **Wine degustation, cellar and vineyard presentations and homemade dinner** will be organized at one of the most famous vine growing estates. After dinner return to Zagreb. Overnight.



Varazdin



Trakoscan castle



### Day 04 ZAGREB - KUTJEVO

Breakfast at the hotel. The tour will lead you to one of the most developed wine producing zones on the continental area, **Kutjevo**. Wine matching lunch in a local restaurant. Afternoon is reserved for organized visits of several rewarded wine producing estates where dinner will be served. Overnight.



### Day 05 KUTJEVO – BARANJA TOUR - OSIJEK

Breakfast at the hotel. Transfer to **Baranja county** within whose eastern part territory the Municipality of Kneževi Vinogradi is situated. **Traditional buildings, archaeological sites** and individually protected sacral buildings are the main architectural features of **Kneževi Vinogradi** related to cultural heritage. Apart from traditionally built houses and barns spread around the Municipality, there is the so-called **architecture in the ground**, wine cellars dug into the thick strata created through centuries of sedimentation caused by the passage of winds. These unique objects together with autochthonous countryside are specific to the whole Baranja region. Protected ethnological units such as **Katolički surduk and Reformatski surduk** ( surduk is a narrow road cut through the hills ) with about **80 wine cellars** dug into the ground make famous wine roads in **Zmajevac and Suza**. Traditional lunch and wine presentations will be organized in one of the restaurants owned by the wine producers. Continuation to **Osijek**. Overnight.



Baranja



Osijek

#### Day 06 OSIJEK– ILOK – BRODSKI STUPNIK

Breakfast at the hotel. Morning visit of **Osijek**, a popular tourist destination for its Baroque style, open spaces and ample recreational opportunities. The most important sights in the city include the main square, **Trg Ante Starčevića**, **Tvrđa** the 18th century Baroque citadel and the promenade along the **Drava river**. Arrival to **Ilok**, where important cultural and historical heritage with Gothic churches are the most distinguished objects representing the borderline between the western and eastern art, as well as the relicts of Islamic architecture. Ilok is also the centre of the **rich wine-growing region**. The grape harvest of Ilok represents a traditional annual event in the town (end of September, beginning of October). The Ilok wines (**Traminer, Burgundy, Grasevina**) as well as the excellent Ilok cuisine which you will taste during lunch are famous beyond the Croatian borders. The tour continues towards a small **village Brodski Stupnik** where dinner and overnight will be organized in a renowned wine estate.



Ilok

#### Day 07 BRODSKI STUPNIK - ZAGREB

Breakfast at the hotel. After a wine presentation and lunch in **Brodski Stupnik** transfer to Zagreb is arranged. Arrival to Zagreb in the afternoon, farewell dinner will be served in a local authentic restaurant, overnight.



Brodski Stupnik

**Day 08 ZAGREB- departure**

Breakfast at the hotel. Transfer to the Zagreb airport for departure flight.



# BAN TOURS

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# MICE Croatia

## **Croatia - The perfect choice for those seeking a host for a successful event**

Meeting planners are always seeking something unique, creative and memorable from the destinations they choose for their events, while also considering amenities, infrastructure, security, safety, and flexibility. If your checklist contains these points - in addition to factors such as **rich history, nice climate, comprehensive conference and convention facilities, wide range of hotel accommodation, excellent restaurants and traditional cuisine and top class wines** - Croatia could be the unique destination you are searching for.

## Dubrovnik Incentive Suggestion



Amid all the translucent splendor of its Riviera, Dubrovnik is truly the pearl in a crown. Once it rivaled Venice as a maritime power, with its ships playing their trade to all corners of the known world Dubrovnik enjoyed great importance in the movement of goods and travelers in Europe for a thousand years, thanks to its exceptional geographical position.

Wondering amid the maze of **narrow, cobbled streets, wide squares amid fountains, palaces and magnificent churches, markets, bazaars and restaurants**, you are stepping through an age long gone and forgotten.

One of the lovely features of Dubrovnik is that one can make a tour of churches, museums, palaces and city walls on foot. In the summer heat it is pleasant to sit in the deep shade of the palaces and monasteries, waiting for night to bring a light mistral wind to cool the hot city walls.

Dubrovnik represents living history – **the pearl of the Adriatic**, spread out on stone rocks and cliffs descending into the embrace of the sea and the waves.

### Itinerary – April 2013

#### DAY 01

Arrival to Dubrovnik airport. Meet & greet your local Russian speaking tour leader. Private bus transfer to the hotel. Check in. Lunch in the hotel including drinks (House Wine 0,10 or Soft drink or Mineral water 0,25 or Fruit juice 0,20 or Draught beer 0,30 + coffee / tea) . Afternoon city tour with a local English speaking guide including the visit of the Old City walls. Dinner in a local restaurant Dubrava where a music & folklore show will be organized. Return to the hotel. Overnight.

#### **RESTAURANT KONOBA DUBRAVA; [www.konobadubrava.com](http://www.konobadubrava.com)**



#### DAY 02

Breakfast at the hotel. Full day excursion to the Peljesac peninsula. Visit the small town Ston with its' ancient walls and salt works. Wine degustation & winery presentation will be held in a local winery Miloš along with extra virgin olive oil degustation.



Pelješac

**MILOŠ WINERY; [www.milos.hr](http://www.milos.hr)**



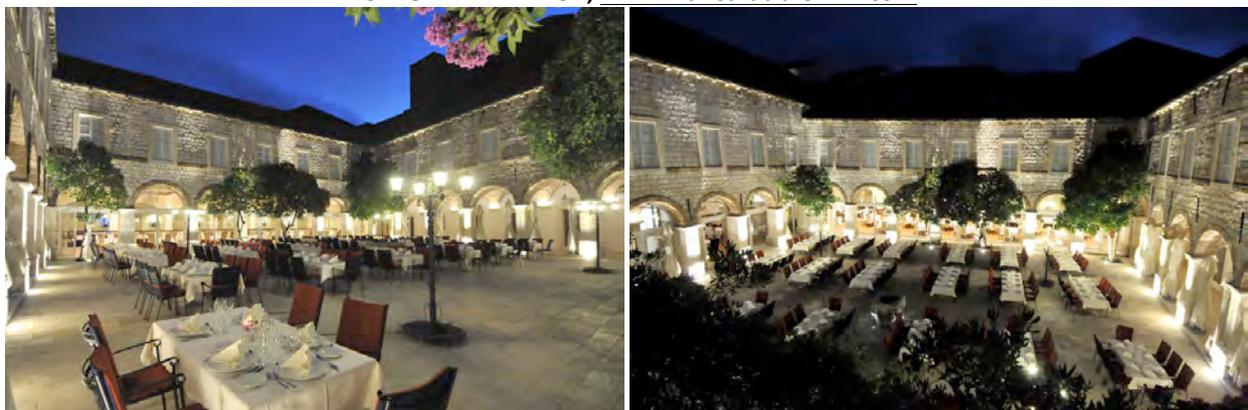
Afterwards, transfer to the restaurant Bota Šare where lunch will be held along with seafood degustation.

**RESTAURANT BOTA ŠARE; Ston, Pelješac, [www.bota-sare.hr](http://www.bota-sare.hr)**



Return to the hotel in Dubrovnik area. Dinner in the restaurant Klarisa inside the Old City walls. Return to the hotel. Overnight.

**RESTAURANT KLARISA; [www.klarisa-dubrovnik.com](http://www.klarisa-dubrovnik.com)**



**DAY 03**

Breakfast at the hotel. Transfer to the Old City where a Dubrovnik Treasure Hunt will be organized. The program consists 2,5 hours of intense exploration of Dubrovnik's historical, cultural and gastronomic treasures and medieval architecture. In order to reveal the hidden treasure chest, maps and clues have to be followed.

Through an exciting interactive sightseeing game, teams are challenged to discover local culture, gastronomy and history while visiting all major attractions, tasting traditional homemade drinks and products and solving different photo tasks. The most successful team will find the treasure chest and take the plunder, but in this game the real treasure is Dubrovnik itself.



Franciscan Monastery



Dominican Monastery

Cathedral



Rector's Palace

After the team building program, lunch in a local restaurant Proto.

**RESTAURANT PROTO; [www.esculaprestaurants.com](http://www.esculaprestaurants.com)**



Free time to explore the city on own. Return to the hotel.

In the afternoon transfer to the Old city port where the group embarks on to the Karaka boat, a magnificent replica of a 16<sup>th</sup> century Dubrovnik Republic traditional carrack. Boat ride to the small village Trsteno northwest from Dubrovnik ( approx. 1 hour boat ride ) where the gala dinner will be held. Return to the hotel. Overnight.



#### DAY 04

Breakfast at the hotel. Check out. Transfer to the Dubrovnik airport. Departure flight.

**HOTEL DUBROVNIK PALACE 5\*;** [www.alh.hr](http://www.alh.hr)



*Croatia's finest Luxury Resort Hotel & Spa, Dubrovnik Palace hotel is member of Adriatic Luxury Hotels. Everywhere you look your gaze is drawn to the crystal blue sea of the Adriatic in a panoramic view of unparalleled beauty and magnificence. Hotel Dubrovnik Palace resides on a beautiful peninsula called Lapad, below the park of little Petka woods, with a unique view to the Elaphite islands. Isolated from the urban turbulence, surrounded by the sea and pine woods, Hotel Dubrovnik Palace is ideally located to meet guests that seek privacy and relaxation.*

#### ROOM AMENITIES

Over its 10 floors, the Hotel Dubrovnik Palace has 308 luxury bedrooms and suites together with a VIP wing.

All rooms have a private balcony and stunning sea view.

The hotel is made up of 22 Classic single rooms, 235 Classic double rooms, 14 Superior double rooms, 24 Junior suites, seven Executive suites, two Deluxe suites, three Ambassador suites and one Presidential suite.

Room amenities:

- Flat-screen satellite TV
- En-suite bathroom with power shower
- Bathrobes and slippers
- Exclusive toiletries
- Mini bar
- Direct-dial telephone
- Air-conditioning
- Complimentary safety deposit box
- Pay TV
- Turn-down service
- 24-hour room service
- Laundry service
- Dry cleaning service
- Free wifi



### Conferencing

As a meeting venue, Hotel Dubrovnik Palace offers eight flexible conference and meeting rooms, with capacity from 10 to 750 delegates (1000 participants via video-link) and a self-contained separate conference entrance with registration desk for your participants.

Dubrovnik Palace hotel terraces are ideal for informal gatherings, cocktails and coffee breaks, and the bar is perfect for short breaks or just to take a drink with a colleague. The lounge area is the place to relax after a busy day or conduct a casual meeting.

Many of the meeting rooms in Hotel Dubrovnik Palace have natural daylight with sea views and are also ideal for private functions for your group. To ensure it goes smoothly, Hotel Dubrovnik Palace offers you a range of creative banqueting menus and a selection of fine wines.

All of our conference rooms provide the peace and silence required for fruitful work. The fresh air and magnificent views from the terrace will give you moments of additional relaxation and time to think.



### Meals:

Coffee & Juices break – from Eur 8,00 net per person ( *coffee & tea variety, choice of natural juices, selection of biscuits and crackers* )\*\*\* not included in the basic rate\*\*\*

### FOLKLORE LINĐO DANCE

Linđo is a popular dance of Dubrovnik and the Dubrovnik region. It is danced to the accompaniment of *lijerica* (an old Southern Dalmatian instrument with three strings), which came from the Eastern Mediterranean in late 18th century and spread on the Adriatic coast in the 19th century.



The dance master plays sitting, with *lijerica* on his left knee, while stamping with his right foot, thus dictating rhythm to the dancers. They move in a circle around the dance master, who gives commands (in rhyme, humorous and often with double meaning). He also decides who will dance with whom and dictates the change of dance figures, he also encourages the dancers to compete in improvisations.

<http://youtu.be/OgaHTCbrNNg>

### KLAPA SINGING

The *klapa* music is a form of traditional Croatian a cappella singing. The word *klapa* translates as "a group of friends" and traces its roots to littoral church singing. The motifs in general celebrate love, wine (grapes), country (homeland) and sea. Main elements of the music are harmony and melody, with rhythm very rarely being very important.



A *klapa* group consists of a first tenor, a second tenor, a baritone, and a bass. It is possible to double all the voices apart from the first tenor. Although *klapa* is a cappella music, on occasion it is possible to add a gentle guitar and a mandolin (instrument similar in appearance and sound to *tamburitza*). *Klapa* tradition is still very much alive, with new songs composed and festivals are held. Many young people from Dalmatia treasure *klapa* and sing it regularly when going out eating or drinking. It is not unusual to hear amateur *klapa* singing on the streets in the evenings over some food and wine.

<http://youtu.be/mXv0kW43bsk>

## Incentive Zagreb Suggestion

### DAY 01 – ZAGREB ARRIVAL

Arrival to Zagreb airport. Meet your local English speaking tour leader. Private coach transfer to the hotel. Check in. Welcome dinner in the restaurant Baltazar.



### DAY 02 – ZAGREB

Breakfast at the hotel. Sightseeing of Zagreb with a local English speaking guide.



*Visit the Lower Town; Zrinjevac park together with a lot of buildings representing the typical architecture of Central Europe from the edge of 19th and 20th century. Buildings of The Croatian Academy of Science and Arts and neighboring Art Pavilion are two finest examples. Continuation to the Botanical Gardens and Marulic Square towards the Marsal Tito Square with another three important landmarks of Zagreb: The Mimara Museum, Croatian National Theatre and Zagreb University. Experience the shortest funicular ride to Upper Town – totally different, enchanting Zagreb and the story returns back to 15th and 16th century. The Lotrščak Tower signalizes the high noon to Zagreb citizens with the cannon shot every day. St. Catherine's Square with baroque church, St. Mark's Square with Houses of Parliament and Government and St. Mark's Church with its picturesque roof, The Stone Gate – another remaining of strong city walls are impressive sights for your own postcard of Zagreb.*



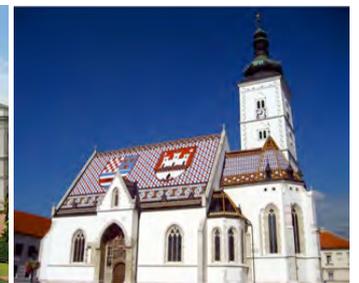
Zrinjevac Park



Art Pavilion



Mimara museum



St.Mark's church



Cathedral



St. Mark Church



National Theatre

Lunch in the restaurant Vinodol.



In the afternoon – team building program; Photo & video contest. This is a photo & video adventure where the teams will perform unusual tasks in unusual places in even stranger ways. Equipped with a camera, they will have to accomplish different photo and video tasks that include recording Zagreb culture, sights and customs.

Teamwork, creativity, resourcefulness and charm are the key to success of this extraordinary adventure.



Dinner in the restaurant Klub Knjizevnika.



Overnight.

**DAY 03 – ZAGREB – PLITVICE - ZAGREB**

Breakfast at the hotel. Morning transfer to Plitvice lakes – one of the greatest natural wonders and phenomena in the world. Embraced by high wooded mountains, one beneath another lie sixteen beautiful lakes of crystal blue-green water. Connected to each other by a series of foaming cascades and thundering waterfalls, the lakes are fed by many rivers and streams. Plitvice Lakes were declared a National Park in 1949, and since 1979 they have been on UNESCO's list of World Natural Heritage. Team building program at the lakes – hiking in the natural park.



Plitvice lakes

With the aim of bringing the forest eco system closer to visitors and promoting the natural values of the park, two educational recreation trails have been opened: the 9 km long 'Plitvica' and the 21 km long 'Corkova Uvala'. We'll take the shorter path marked with hiking sign posts and arrows that have to be followed by the rules of the Park. With the help of our local guides and information billboards that have been put up along the two paths, the groups will have the possibility of getting to know the richness of the biological diversity of the National Park.



Lunch in a local restaurant or lunch boxes will be provided. NOTE – hiking program lasts minimum 4 hours. Alternative program can be designed in Zagreb upon arrival. Afternoon transfer to Zagreb. Alternative program – team painting.



An art community inside the city! No, you do not need to be a painter or even be talented. You need to mix the colors and paint as closely as the templates that we set up on an easel in front of you. Motives? Of course, Zagreb's landmarks or even the beautiful Plitvice lakes the group visited earlier. Protective equipment (suits are pulled without changing clothes, gloves, shoes) allows you to perform these activities in all areas and in all circumstances.

Dinner in the restaurant Gallo. Overnight.



**DAY 04 – ZAGREB – TRAKOSCAN - VARAZDIN - HRASCINE – ZAGREB**

Breakfast at the hotel. Morning transfer to the Trakoscan castle through Zagorje. Trakoscan was built in the late 13th century as part of the defense fortification network of the Zagorje principality. It has been meticulously maintained and is currently one of the best preserved historic buildings in the country.



Zagorje



Trakoscan castle

After visiting the castle transfer to the Golden Wine Trail and the restaurant Zlatne Gorice. Following the Golden Wine Trail you will have an opportunity to taste some exquisite wines through a team building wine tasting program. The Trail represents 12 stations of Slavic mythology.

Through this guided event everyone will be given twelve baskets, twelve bites and twelve species of continental wines with an emphasis on wines Golden Gorica from organic farming. The teams will be introduced with the Slavic mythology and the path ends with the initiation of all participants in the name of the Slavic Gods, the earth, air and sun. Each participant receives a winetasting diploma, which represents a lasting memory of this trail.



After lunch transfer to Varazdin. Sightseeing of Varazdin with a local English speaking guide. Afternoon at leisure.



Transfer to the village Hrascline where a gala dinner will be organized at the Bolfan Vinski Vrh winery & vineyards.



During thousands of years, in more or less intermittent intervals, this was a vine growing land, where exuberant wines were tasted and poured. Upon arrival a welcome drink will be organized where your hosts will introduce to you the history, tradition and contemporary vision of the winery.

A five course wine matching dinner will be held in the lovely restaurant Libertin at the estate.

During dinner you will have the opportunity to experience a wine and blues fusion session by a rewarded Croatian musician Tomislav Goluben who combines traditional ethno music from Zagorje and American blues.



Return to Zagreb. Overnight.

**DAY 05 – ZAGREB COUNTY – IVANIC GRABERJE – SAMOBOR - ZAGREB**

Breakfast at the hotel. Morning transfer to a family run estate in Ivanić Graberje.



There in the estate a Village Olympic Games team building program will be organized. You will have a chance to enjoy some fun traditional rural leisure activities such as pulling rope, jumping in sacks, archery and much more.



A homemade lunch will be prepared on the estate. After lunch leisure time.

Afternoon transfer to Samobor. Sightseeing of Samobor, situated at the foot of the mountain Samobor in the Zagreb county. Samobor is a town with ancient ruins from the Stone and Iron Age, and even today keeps the charter of King Bela IV which included the town among the medieval, and distinguished "free royal cities."



More than a century's worth of care and investment into tourism, recreation and hospitality facilities has made Samobor a tourism mecca in continental Croatia. Magnificent promenades in the town itself, protected forests at its perimeter and gourmet specialties of popular Samobor restaurants are the strongest lure for the visitors. However, other elements (cultural and historic heritage, traditional events, sports facilities) will also ensure your stay in town is enjoyable.



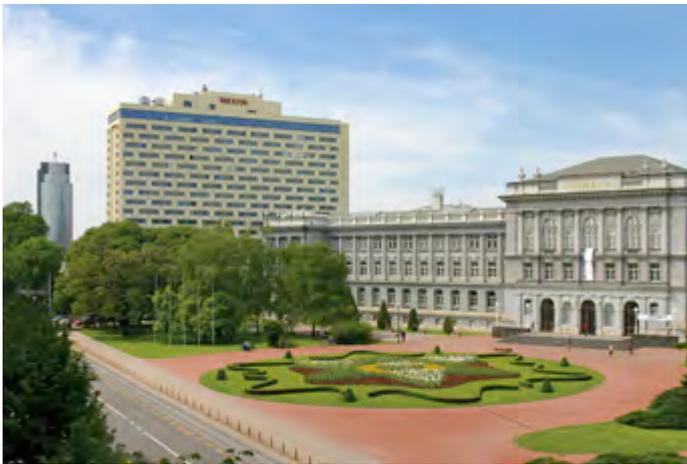
Return to Zagreb. Dinner in the restaurant Okrugljak. Overnight.

#### DAY 06 – ZAGREB departure

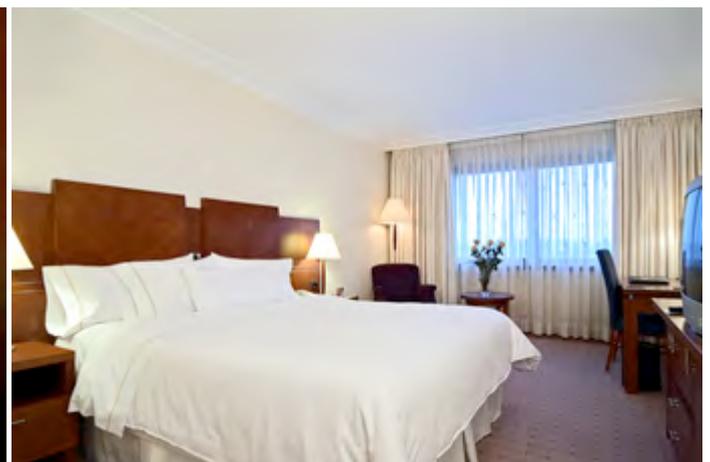
Breakfast at the hotel. Transfer to the Zagreb airport. Departure flight.

#### ACCOMMODATION SUGGESTIONS:

**HOTEL WESTIN 5\***; [www.hotelwestinzagreb.com](http://www.hotelwestinzagreb.com)



The Westin Zagreb is an upscale 5-star property, situated in the very heart of the city, overlooking all major sights, which through its signature products and services, distinctive architecture and aesthetics, delivers superior comfort and rewards its guests' sense of style.



The Westin Zagreb features a 24-hour Front Desk, 24/7 Room Service, Business Centre, Fitness indoor/spa/indoor swimming pool, two restaurants, a bar and a lounge, as well as the beauty salon/hairdresser, car rental & shopping arcade, in-door garage with 150 parking spaces, in addition to an external park.



The Westin Zagreb is a 30 min drive from the city airport.

378 Guest-rooms and suites, including Westin Guest Offices, Executive Suites, Deluxe Suites, as well as the Presidential Suite, have been refurbished up to the highest Westin standards and are equipped with refreshment centers, hair dryers, in-room safes, coffee makers, irons / ironing-boards, amenities packages and 2 dual-line telephones. Additionally Guest-rooms are equipped with Heavenly Beds® and Heavenly Showers®. Service Express®, Westin Kids Club®, and Westin Guest Office® are Westin signature products that are offered in the Westin Zagreb as well.



**HOTEL ESPLANADE 5\*;** [www.esplanade.hr](http://www.esplanade.hr)



Opened in 1925 as a refuge for passengers from the Orient Express, the stylish Esplanade Zagreb Hotel is an architectural gem. Located within easy reach of key attractions such as the Cathedral and the Art Pavilion, the city's most iconic hotel combines art deco glamour with every contemporary convenience.



Long-established as a haven for A-List movie stars, politicians, singers and artists, the hotel's fairytale exterior and gracious guest accommodation make it easily the most prestigious hotel in Zagreb.

Among the amenities that come as standard in hotel's fully non-smoking rooms are marble bathrooms with drench showers, bath menu plus large fluffy bath towels, robes and slippers, goose down and anti-allergic pillows and duvets, high-speed wi-fi, satellite and pay-TV, telephones with voicemail and much more.



Esplanade Zagreb Hotel offers everything you would expect from a luxury hotel and more. Two signature restaurants and a health club with fitness, massage and beauty salon guarantee pampering and relaxation for leisure guests.



The outstanding conference facilities include a spectacular ballroom, Business Centre and impromptu meeting space. Amenities range from free, super-fast internet access, a 24-hour room and laundry service, valet parking, shoe polishing, turn-down service, concierge facility, luxury bath menu and gift shop.